

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government  
Room 142-S  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Honorable Senators:

Senate Bill 59, The Eudora Community Library District Act, is an important bill for the continued viability of a public library in the Eudora community, and I am here today to request your support for a bill that will allow our community to offer exceptional library services to residents of both the City of Eudora and the Eudora Township for generations to come.

The Eudora Township Public Library (ETPL) was established in 1968 by a vote of the residents of the Eudora Township, which at the time included the City of Eudora. For 50 years, our library has served both the City and Township of Eudora as a Township library in name, but as a community library in purpose. This community partnership has allowed our library to continually grow and expand the programs and services it offers, meeting the unique needs of children, teens, adults and senior citizens. The library also has served as a partner to the Feeding Eudora program, which provides free lunches to all residents during the summer months when our schools are closed.

In 2011, due to continued population growth, the City of Eudora changed from being classified as a city of the third class to a city of the second class. One of the unintended consequences of this change was that the City of Eudora was legally removed from the Eudora Township municipality. This left the future of the library in question, as neither the Township nor the City has the tax base on its own to continue to appropriately fund a community library without imposing a substantial tax burden on their residents. As a temporary solution to this issue, the City and Township have entered into a series of annual agreements to jointly fund the continued operation of the library. Since city residents are no longer eligible to sit on the library board, however, these agreements do not constitute a long-term solution.

Senate Bill 59 is the result of a multi-year, collaborative effort between the Eudora Township, the ETPL board of trustees, and the City of Eudora to find a meaningful resolution to this problem. SB59 will allow our community library to continue to thrive in its service to our

community by clarifying its governance, simplifying the funding mechanisms for it, and ensuring equal and adequate representation for all citizens on the library board of directors -- all while holding our taxpayers harmless.

The Eudora Township Public Library is our community library, and our hope is that it can continue to operate as it has for the past 50 years: as a partnership between the Eudora City and Township. Senate Bill 59 makes this possible. This bill is important for not just to our library, but more importantly to our community. I encourage you to vote in favor of it.

Respectfully,

Eric Magette, President  
ETPL Board of Trustees